

Federal Election Commission

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(d) *Commercially reasonable.* The Commission will determine that a debt settlement between a political committee and a commercial vendor is commercially reasonable if—

(1) The initial extension of credit was made in accordance with 11 CFR 116.3;

(2) The candidate or political committee has undertaken all reasonable efforts to satisfy the outstanding debt. Such efforts may include, but are not limited to, the following—

(i) Engaging in fundraising efforts;

(ii) Reducing overhead and administrative costs; and

(iii) Liquidating assets; and

(3) The commercial vendor has pursued its remedies as vigorously as it would pursue its remedies against a nonpolitical debtor in similar circumstances. Such remedies may include, but are not limited to, the following—

(i) Oral and written requests for payment;

(ii) Withholding delivery of additional goods or services until overdue debts are satisfied;

(iii) Imposition of additional charges or penalties for late payment;

(iv) Referral of overdue debts to a commercial debt collection service; and

(v) Litigation.

(e) *Settlement or forgiveness not required.* The provisions of this part shall not be construed to require a commercial vendor to forgive or settle the debt for less than the entire amount owed.

(f) *Reporting.* The political committee shall continue to report the debt in accordance with 11 CFR 104.3(d) and 104.11 until the Commission has completed a review of the debt settlement plan pursuant to 11 CFR 116.7(f) or until the Commission has completed a review of the request to forgive the debt pursuant to 11 CFR 116.8, or until the political committee pays the debt, whichever occurs first.

[55 FR 26386, June 27, 1990, as amended at 67 FR 78682, Dec. 26, 2002]

§ 116.5 Advances by committee staff and other individuals.

(a) *Scope.* This section applies to individuals who are not acting as commercial vendors. Individuals who are acting as commercial vendors shall follow

the requirements of 11 CFR 116.3 and 116.4.

(b) *Treatment as contributions.* The payment by an individual from his or her personal funds, including a personal credit card, for the costs incurred in providing goods or services to, or obtaining goods or services that are used by or on behalf of, a candidate or a political committee is a contribution unless the payment is exempted from the definition of contribution under 11 CFR 100.79. If the payment is not exempted under 11 CFR 100.79, it shall be considered a contribution by the individual unless—

(1) The payment is for the individual's transportation expenses incurred while traveling on behalf of a candidate or political committee of a political party or for usual and normal subsistence expenses incurred by an individual, other than a volunteer, while traveling on behalf of a candidate or political committee of a political party; and

(2) The individual is reimbursed within sixty days after the closing date of the billing statement on which the charges first appear if the payment was made using a personal credit card, or within thirty days after the date on which the expenses were incurred if a personal credit card was not used. For purposes of this section, the closing date shall be the date indicated on the billing statement which serves as the cutoff date for determining which charges are included on that billing statement. In addition, "subsistence expenses" include only expenditures for personal living expenses related to a particular individual traveling on committee business, such as food or lodging.

(c) *Treatment as debts.* A political committee shall treat the obligation arising from a payment described in paragraph (b) of this section as an outstanding debt until reimbursed.

(d) *Settlement or forgiveness of the debt.* The individual and the political committee may agree to the total forgiveness of the debt (See 11 CFR 116.8) or a settlement of the debt for less than the entire amount owed (See 11 CFR 116.7), provided that the requirements of 11

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CFR 116.7 or 116.8, as appropriate, including the submission of the information specified in these sections and Commission review, are satisfied. The provisions of this part shall not be construed to require the individual to forgive or settle the debt for less than the entire amount owed.

(e) *Reporting.* The political committee shall continue to report the obligation arising from the payment as a debt in accordance with 11 CFR 104.3(d) and 104.11 until the Commission has completed a review of the debt settlement plan pursuant to 11 CFR 116.7(f) or until the Commission has completed a review of the request to forgive the debt pursuant to 11 CFR 116.8, or until the political committee pays the debt, whichever occurs first.

[55 FR 26386, June 27, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 35911, July 29, 1991; 67 FR 78682, Dec. 26, 2002]

§ 116.6 Salary payments owed to employees.

(a) *Treatment as debts or volunteer services.* If a political committee does not pay an employee for services rendered to the political committee in accordance with an employment contract or a formal or informal agreement to do so, the unpaid amount either may be treated as a debt owed by the political committee to the employee or, provided that the employee signs a written statement agreeing to be considered a volunteer, converted to a volunteer services arrangement under 11 CFR 100.74. The unpaid amount shall not be treated as a contribution under 11 CFR part 100, subparts B and C.

(b) *Settlement or forgiveness of the debt.* If the unpaid amount is treated as a debt, the employee and the political committee may agree to a settlement of the debt for less than the entire amount owed pursuant to 11 CFR 116.7. The provisions of this part shall not be construed to require the employee to settle the debt for less than the entire amount owed.

(c) *Reporting.* If the unpaid amount is treated as a debt, the political committee shall continue to report the debt in accordance with 11 CFR 104.3(d) and 104.11 until the Commission has completed a review of the debt settlement plan pursuant to 11 CFR 116.7(f)

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or until the employee agrees to be considered a volunteer, or until the political committee pays the debt, whichever occurs first.

[55 FR 26386, June 27, 1990, as amended at 67 FR 78682, Dec. 26, 2002]

§ 116.7 Debt settlement plans filed by terminating committees; Commission review.

(a) *Procedures for filing debt settlement plans.* Every terminating committee as defined in 11 CFR 116.1(a) shall file at least one debt settlement plan with the Commission prior to filing its termination report under 11 CFR 102.3. The terminating committee shall file a debt settlement plan after the creditors included in the debt settlement plan have agreed to the settlement or forgiveness of the particular debt(s) owed to each of them. The terminating committee shall not make any payments to the creditors included in the debt settlement plan until completion of Commission review. The Commission encourages terminating committees to include as many debt settlement agreements as possible in a debt settlement plan. The terminating committee shall not file its termination report under 11 CFR 102.3 and shall not terminate until each debt or obligation owed either:

- (1) Has been paid in full;
- (2) Has been settled and the requirements of this section, including Commission review, have been satisfied;
- (3) Has been forgiven by the creditor and the requirements of 11 CFR 116.8, including Commission review, have been satisfied;
- (4) Has been determined not to be payable pursuant to 11 CFR 116.9; or
- (5) Has been otherwise extinguished or discharged.

(b) *Debts subject to settlement.* Debts and obligations subject to the debt settlement and Commission review requirements and procedures set forth in this section include:

- (1) Amounts owed to commercial vendors (*See* 11 CFR 116.3 and 116.4);
- (2) Debts arising from advances by committee staff and other individuals (*See* 11 CFR 116.5);
- (3) Salary owed to committee employees (*See* 11 CFR 116.6); and